

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 HA-05 MCT-01
/070 W

-----049335 200912Z /23

R 192155Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6632

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: ANOTHER STUDENT-GN CONFRONTATION IN MASAYA

1. PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS STATE THAT ANOTHER INCIDENT
OCCURRED LATE YESTERDAY (MAY 18) AFTERNOON. THE INCIDENT
TOOK PLACE IN MASAYA.

2. THE RADIO MIL VERSION IS THAT A STUDENT THREW A BOMB
AT A NATIONAL GUARD (GN) PATROL AND RETREAHSD INTO A SCHOOL.
THE PATROL CHASED HIM INTO THE SCHOOL. WHEN THE SOLDIERS
ATTEMPTED TO MAKE THE ARREST, OTHER STUDENTS SURROUNDED
THE PATROL TO PREVENT THIS AND THREW BOTTLES, ETC. AT THE
PATROL. ANOTHER GROUP OF GN CAME TO THEIR RESCUE FIRING
THEIR WEAPONS. AS THE GN LEFT WITH PRISONERS, A CROWD
WHICH HAD FORMED TAUNTED THEM AND THE GN FIRED SHOTS INTO
THE CROWD.

3. NOVEDADES VERSION IS THAT PROFESSIONAL
AGITATORS PROVOKED THE CONFRONTATION BY THROWING BOMBS AND SHOOTING
AT A GN PATROL WITH .22 AND .38 CALIBRE WEAPONS. THE GN
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MERELY RETURNED THE FIRE AND PURSUED THE CULPRITS TO VARIOUS
PARTS OF THE CITY (INCLUDING MONIMBO) TO MAKE THE ARRESTS.
AMONG THE ARRESTED WERE MANY NON-STUDENTS. SEVERAL
"WELL KNOWN" AGITATORS AND INSTIGATORS.

4. LA PRENSA REPORTER PRESENT AT THE SCENE OF THE CONFLICT
REPORTS THAT THE INCIDENT BEGAN WHEN A BOMB WAS EXPLODED

IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL, INJURING NO ONE AND DOING NO DAMAGE. THREE PLAINCLOTHESMEN WERE PRESENT AND CHASED AND CAUGHT THE STUDENT WHO EXPLODED THE BOMB. ABOUT 150 STUDENTS WHO WERE WAITING FOR NIGHT CLASSES TO BEGIN TRIED TO PREVENT THE PLAINCLOTHESMEN FROM KAINING THE ARREST. MORE GN TROOPS ARRIVED AT THE SCENE AND BEGAN FIRING INTO THE AIR AND THE BUILDING. AS A RESULT, TWO PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED,BOTH IN THE LEGS. REPORTER STATED THAT ALL SHOTS WERE FIRED BY GN AND WERE FIRED OUTSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY INFORMATION INDICATES THAT MUCH OF THE STUDENT AGITATION IS BEING FOMENTED BY A FACTION OF THE FSLN WHICH HOPES FOR VIOLENT REACTIONS BY THE GN. THE APPARENT INITIATION OF THIS INCIDENT WITH BOMB THROWING LENDS CREDENCE TO THE NOVEDADES REPORT OF PROVOCATION. SOLAUN

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